

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

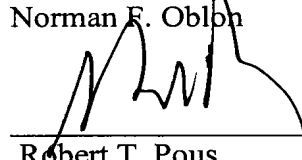
Claims 6, 8-14, 19 and 20 were indicated as being allowable, subject to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The remaining claims have therefore been cancelled, leaving only the allowable claims pending in the application.

Several of the allowed claims have been amended for clarity. However, concerning the specific objections in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is noted that the inner and outer circumference, and the circumferential and axial directions are inherent features of the claimed elements, e.g., the mold, and so already have antecedent basis in the claims by virtue of the recitation of the mold. See MPEP 2173.05(e). This rejection is therefore believed to be moot.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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